

THE DIRECTOR OF
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

nal Intelligence Council

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NOTE FOR: [REDACTED] D/SOVA

Thanks very much for sending me the succession paper. It's an impressive job and says it all. One comment, however. The judgments on Page 45 that a successor leadership will follow down the same track seems to me far too rigidly expressed. This is the conventional wisdom, but it seems to me that there is much greater uncertainty than this allows. Let us not forget that we all thought Khrushchev was a good grey apparatchik. It just isn't human nature that some of the next generation would not privately have come to the conclusion that their leaders had made a botch of it and hold very strong ideas of what to do differently. Naturally, they're going to keep these ideas to themselves under present circumstances.

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Richard Lehman